(iv) Weapons recovered 84

(v) Ammunition recovered 11000 rounds Approximately

A large number of militants were forced to abort the infiltration attempt.

(c) A series of steps have been taken which *inter-alia* include strengthening of deployment of Security Forces in the Sensitive areas and gearing up of intelligence machinery; sensitisation of neighbouring countries to ensure that the militants/insurgents do not get aid, assistance and facilities from their territory for carrying out activities directed against India, declaration of the concerned associations/groups as unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of affected areas as 'Disturbed Area' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended from time to time, firm handling of those indulging in violent activities motivating them to join the national mainstream provided they adjure violence and agree to work within the Constitution of India.

Plan to keep criminals out of politics

*160. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Minister has recently suggested that criminals should be put out of politics; and

(b) if so, what is the plan to keep criminals out of politics?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) A general suggestion was made that political parties should avoid giving party tickets to persons having a criminal record.

(b) While Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that a person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years is disqualified from contesting elections, Government feel that keeping criminals out of politics will require a firm consensus among the political parties and strong public opinion in this regard.

Development of wet land and mangroves in the country

1053. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total wet land and areas covered by mangroves in the country (State-wise)

(b) whether Government have taken steps for the development of wet land and mangrove areas in different States;

(c) the steps taken in that direction in Orissa so far, and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A survey of all the wetlands in the country has not been carried out. However, an Inventory of Wetlands prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests lists natural and man-made wetlands in different States/Union Territories in the country covering a total area of 40502 sq. kms. The total area covered by mangroves in the coastal States/Union Territories is 4.273 sq. kms. The State/Union Territory-wise area covered by wetlands and mangroves is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Yes, Sir. The steps include setting up of a National Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs at the Government of India level and Steering Committee at the State Government's level for the planned management and conservation of these areas, a centrally sponsored scheme to

fund management and conservation activities in the identified wetland, mangroves and coral reef areas, and regulation of activities having an adverse bearing on the preservation of these areas through statutes and laws.

(c) and (d) Under the centrally sponsored schemes of wetlands conservation and mangroves conservation, financial assistance is provided to the State Government of Orissa to undertake management and conservation activities in Chilka wetland and Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Delta mangrove areas. So far an amount of Rs. 112.40 lakhs and Rs. 70.48 lakhs has been released to the State Government for Chilka wetland and Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Delta mangrove areas respectively.

Statement

State/Union Territory wise Distribution of Wetlands and Mangroves in India

	State	Wetlands (Area in sq. km)	Mangroves (Area in sq. km.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5263.49	378
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	202.00	—
3.	Assam	863.55	—
4.	Bihar	2733.95	—
5.	Goa	123.60	3
6.	Gujarat	5242.87	419
7.	Haryana	37.70	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	198.67	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	291.07	—
10.	Karnataka	5425.15	—
11.	Kerala	2349.08	17
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1881.42	—
13.	Maharashtra	3007.00	155
14.	Manipur	266.00	—
15.	Meghalaya	NA	—
16.	Nagaland	2.10	—
17.	Orissa	2854.76	195
18.	Punjab	224.76	—
19.	Rajasthan	1142.44	—
20.	Sikkim	11.30	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	2600.00	21
22.	Tripura	54.08	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2253.02	—
24.	West Bengal	3445.27	2119
		40473.34	3307
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	966
2.	Chandigarh	1.70	—
3.	Pondicherry	26.34	—
		28.34	966
	GRAND TOTAL	40501.68	4273